

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew Tiajolloff on 12/10/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

6. A method for producing a quartz glass article, for producing an optical component, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a quartz glass cylinder having an inner bore therein,
mechanically treating the inner bore to a final dimension; and then
applying an etching treatment to the inner bore,

wherein the step of mechanically treating the inner bore comprises a plurality of removal processes each with a successively smaller removal depth such that,

the inner bore has closed subsurface cracks therein, and all of the closed subsurface cracks in the inner bore have depths of not more than 2 mm after the last removal process, and

wherein the inner bore is subsequently subjected to the etching treatment so as to produce an etching removal with a depth of not more than 50 μm , and such that the

inner bore has an etched structure that has cracks therein, all of said cracks having a depth of not more than 2.0mm and a width of not more than 100 μm .

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record, such as Takagi, discusses the treatment of open sub-surface cracks, and is silent as to the depth of any closed subsurface cracks that are present after mechanical treatment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEITH T. AZIZ whose telephone number is (571)270-7658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8:00am-6:30pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katarzyna I. Wyrozebski can be reached on (571)272-1127. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KTA/

/KHANH NGUYEN/
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